

December 10, 1956

Dr. Victor Twitty
Department of Biology
Stanford University
California

Dear Dr. Twitty:

Thank you for your letter just arrived. As I indicated on the phone, Stanford is one place we would not pass up an opportunity to get to lightly [I hope such an Un-Churchillian sample of English isn't too obscure]. On the other hand, the University here has always looked out for us very well. It will be a hard decision to make in any case, but it certainly should come more quickly, if not more easily, if we visit at the earliest opportunity.

In some respects, the week after Christmas would be slightly more convenient, but we would much prefer to come when we can talk to you, before you leave. We have therefore requested reservations to fly on the 19th (a week Wednesday), and might see you at Stanford on the 20th. However, this is rather late, and it is chancey whether we can get a confirmed flight. We will write or wire ahead as to our plans. On the other hand, if there is good reason for us not to come at that time, for example, if it is inconvenient for you or others in the department, or you will be changing your own departure ahead or back, please let us know and we will if possible get new reservations. Our next preferred time would be the 26th. We are counting on spending a week in California, part of the time with my Brother Seymour, who's at Berkeley: our day-to-day plans will be quite flexible, if necessary, to accomodate you and your colleagues.

We are under some pressure to come to a prompt decision on this offer (and I have to say, another one which is also pending), and I am sure this coincides with your interests. We will be out of the country in March, and again from June through September next year, and will have little enough time therefore to settle our affairs. We will want, say, about two or three weeks after our visit, if that seems reasonable to you.

I don't believe there will be a great deal to 'negotiate' about. Your salary offer represents about a one year's jump ahead of my reasonable expectations here. This is just enough to remove that question as an issue. I will be interested in learning the long-term trends in salaries and advances. Meanwhile, if we could get from you a Stanford catalog and a map of the University area before our departure, these would be most helpful.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. If the need arises, a station-phone-call to our home in the evening would be more economical for you and not uncongenial. The number is
CEdar-3-2968.

Joshua Lederberg
Professor